



बैतारोहार

Nizamuddin Basti
A Living Heritage...

What story can an empty grave, the Urdu Shayari and a timeless Dargah tell us about India's past?

- Hey! What beautiful weather! It seems like unfurling the mysteries held in the lap of time!

Yes, I couldn't agree more! I feel like going ancient will be fun! -

- Going back in time, you say? Eureka!

-Let's walk the lanes of history, snuggled in the arms of time and still slumbering, waiting to be awakened and explored.

You make it sound like a historical movie! But do you have any places in mind? -

-Haan lekin ab woh ek raaz hoga tumhare liye!

-Well, we've arrived at our first stop! Welcome to the Sufiyon ki Basti - a 700-year-old place of living history.

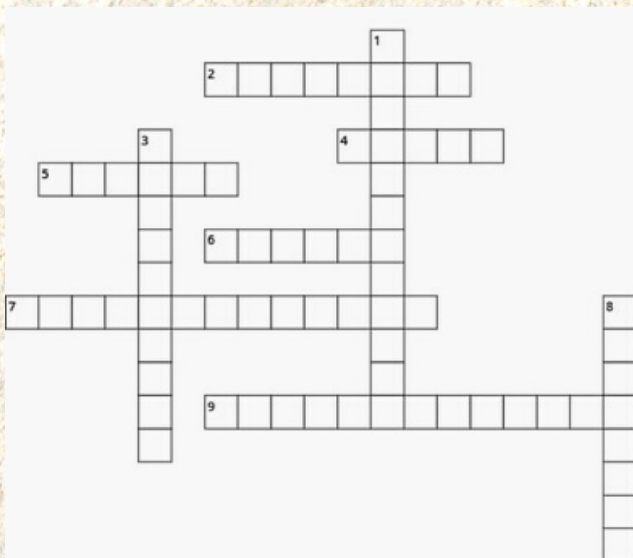
-Our very first destination is the Chausath Khamba!

Let's explore...

Welcome to the Nizamuddin Basti, a mystic abode of Sufi Saints.

This mausoleum made of white marble was built by Mirza Aziz Koka, also known as Kokaltāsh, one of the 9 gems in the Mughal Emperor Akbar's court. The mausoleum boasts of 64 pillars, 25 domes and 25 arches and houses the tombs of Mirza Aziz Koka and his family members. Interestingly, the word "Koka" in Persian means "foster" referring to Jijianga, who was Koka's birth mother, being the foster mother of the Mughal Emperor Akbar.

शब्दों का शतरंज



Akbar's Navaratnas (9 Gems)

Across:

2. Akbar's chief advisor and author of Akbar Nama
4. Akbar's poet laureate
5. A noble known for his wittiness; Akbar's Foreign Minister
6. Akbar's Cultural Minister and a singer
7. Akbar's Religious Minister
9. Akbar's Home Minister

Down:

1. Chief of staff of Akbar's Mughal Army
3. Akbar's Defence Minister; A noble and a poet
8. Akbar's Finance Minister



DID YOU KNOW?

Over 4 million pilgrims visit the 750-year-old basti annually which has a population of over 25,000 which consists of people from varying religious backgrounds including Muslims, Hindus and Christians

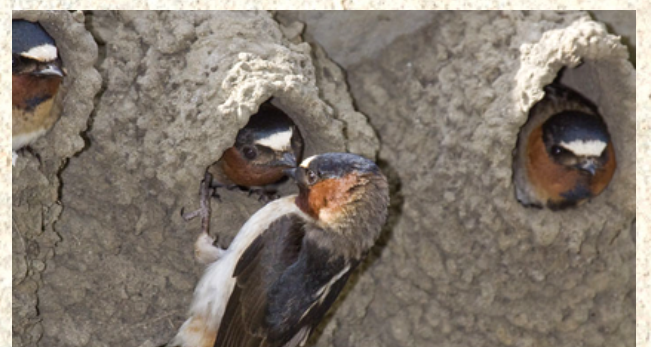
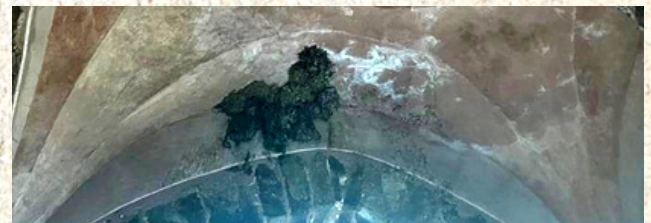
- Let us move ahead and see what other mysteries need to be unravelled

- This is no ordinary bird dear, this is an Ababeel.

Oh! But wait what do I see here? -
Oh its a bird's nest
I wonder which bird...

DID YOU KNOW?

The bird Ababeel, synonymous with 'swift' is mentioned in the Holy Quran as the messenger and envoy of Prophet Sulaiman. It's strange that the bird never sits on the floor as it forgets to fly if it does. Moreover, it makes its nest out of its saliva by plucking out its feathers.





- Hey what do I see here?
Where are these people heading towards?
What are they holding in their hands?



Well! this is the main attraction of the Basti! We are at the shrine of the Holy Saint-
The Dargah Of Sheikh Nizamuddin Auliya.

The imposing mausoleum, Hazrat Nizamuddin Dargah is dedicated to the Sufi saint Khawaja Nizamuddin Auliya, who lived in the early eras of 1238 -1325 CE. A saint of the Chishti order, he firmly believed in spreading humanity and love all across the region. The main structure of the white dome of Nizamuddin's tomb was built by Muhammad bin Tughluq in 1325, following Nizamuddin's death. Firuz Shah Tughlaq later renovated the structure and suspended four golden cups from the dome's recesses. The structure underwent many additions over the years.



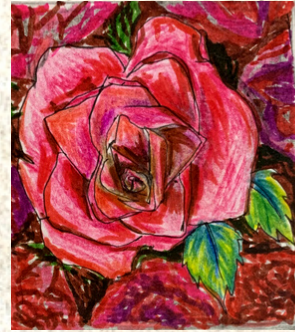
- And now to answer your second question... as you can see people are offering a *chaadar* on the grave of the Sheikh to seek his blessings.

This is followed by sprinkling of *Itar* and rose petals.

A 'chaadar' is spread out over the tomb as an offering to the Saint.

By offering *Itar* and *Phool*, the fragrance of the Saint's blessings will also rub off of the devotee.

A sacred thread tied to the jaali of the Dargah as a symbol of a wish (mannat) to reach God



-We have now arrived at the Nizamuddin Baoli, the only one in Delhi that has 7 underwater springs

The foundation of this 70-foot deep baoli was laid down by Hazrat Nizamuddin himself. It is believed that around the same time the well was being built, Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq was building Tughlakabad. To disrupt the building of the baoli, Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq banned the purchase of oil in the area. When Nizamuddin got to know about this, he asked his disciple to fill the lamps with water from the baoli and light them using grass. The disciple, though in doubt, did as told and the lamps were all lit. This is considered the first miracle of Hazrat Nizamuddin and is also the reason why it is considered so holy.

शब्दों का शतरंज

Unjumble these words to reveal the names of celebrated personalities!

MNNIDZDIAU LIAAU Y

RMAI UKSRAHU

AMZIR ZAIZ KAKO

AHAGD HNKA

JAAARANH UEBMG

MAIZR LAIBHG





Amir Khusro

- खुसरो बाजी प्रेम की खुसरो
जो मैं खेल पिया के संग
जीत गई तो पिया मोरे
जो मैं हारी पिया के संग
छाप तिलक सब चीन ली रे मोसे नैनां मिलायके



Wow! That sounds so pleasing to the ears! What does it mean? -

- The Game of Love
If I Play With My Dear One.
If I Win, My Sweetheart Is Mine.
If I Lose, I'm Still With My Dear One
You Have Snatched Away All Trace of Me With One
Glance of Your Enchanting Eyes.



(Piya/Sweetheart mentioned here is God and the verse manifests the love Khusro has for God.)

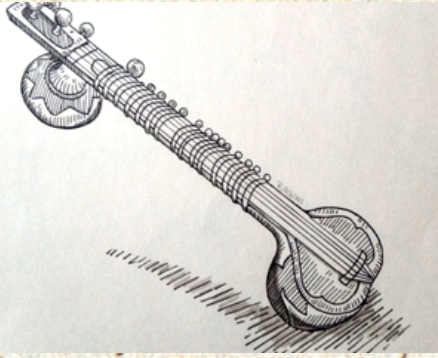
Abu'l Hasan Yaminuddin Khusro, better known as Amir Khusro (also Khusrau, Khusrow) Dehlavi, was the poet laureate of the Indian subcontinent and enjoys ever-lasting fame as one of the most versatile poets and prolific prose-writers of the 13th and 14th centuries. He was a devout and most devoted mureed of Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya and is also buried close to the dargah of Nizamuddin Auliya.

- I can hear some music in the air.
Where is this voice coming from?
Its so soulful!

This music is called Qawwali.
Let's sit and listen to them singing.



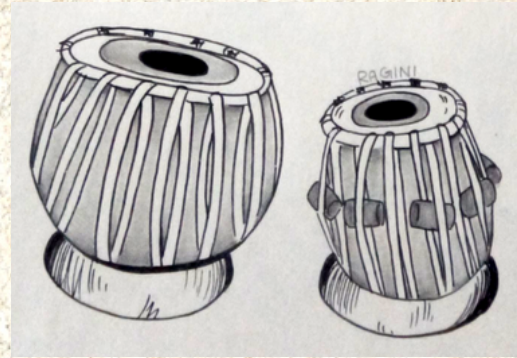
He is widely regarded as the founder of *Qawwali* and lyrical poetry in Hindustani (Urdu) and is credited with enriching Hindustani classical music by incorporating Persian and Arabic elements. He is also credited with inventing the sitar and the tabla and the musical styles known as *khyal* and *Tarana*.



DID YOU KNOW?

Amir Khusrau often described his poems as "pearls" spilling from his lips and – invoking the bird that symbolized eloquence in the Indo-Persian tradition – referred to himself as the "Parrot of India."

He composed a large number of couplets and verses with mixed vocabularies of Turkic, Arabic, Persian, and Braj Bhasha (a dialect closely related to Hindi) which laid foundations for the inception of a new language – Urdu.



A story goes that around the time he was 8 years old, his father, Amir Saifuddin Muhammad, left him at Nizamuddin Auliya's Khanqa as he is believed to have said that he is the one who has the right to choose his Pir or master. He then composed the following quatrain to test the spiritual abilities of Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya.

*Toa aan shahey ke bur aiwaan-e-qasrat
Kabutar gar nashinad baaz gardad.
Gharib-e-mustamandey bur dar amad,
Beyayad androon yaa baaz gardad*

Meaning, you are that great a king that, if on the roof of your grand palace a pigeon were to sit, it becomes a skylark. A poor and humble soul has come to your door, should he enter or should he go away?

Later on, Hazrat Amir Khusro was on Sultan Ghiyasuddin Tughluq's Bengal expedition at the time of Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya's death. The death of his murshid came as a complete shock to him, and he returned to Delhi as soon as possible, distributing everything he had among the poor along the way. When he arrived at the tomb, dressed in black, he embraced the grave and sobbed uncontrollably. "Who am I to wail for this monarch? I lament my fate because I will not survive him much longer." He said later to those present. He passed away 6 months later after he renounced the world.

-This maze of galis is making me dizzy!

Patience! You will be glad once we reach our destination.
I present to you, The Hidden Jewel! -



Adgah Khan's Tomb

This is the mausoleum of Akbar's foster father who was the husband of Jijianga and an accountant. He was killed by Adham Khan, who was Mahamanga's son (Mahamanga was Akbar's first foster mother). He had rescued Humayun as he fled from the battlefields of Chausea, where the Mughal forces were against the Afghan ruler, Sher Shah Suri.

The tomb was built in 1567 by Mirza Aziz Kokaltash for his father. It is in the Persian style of architecture with tile work and a double dome concept. There is glazed work done in the direction of Mecca. It is currently under restoration as it was used as a place of refuge during the partition.

The *Phool Wali Gali* is an entrance gate to the basti and belongs to the 14th century. It was built by Feroz Shah Tughlaq and was covered with flowering trees.

Devotees could pluck the flowers on their way to the dargah and offer them. Hence, the name. With time, the trees have been replaced with buildings.



Dawat-E-Nizam

The word 'Nihar' originated from the Arabic word, 'Nahar' which means 'morning'. It was originally eaten by Nawabs in the Mughal Empire as a breakfast item after their morning prayers.

Nihari is a stew based dish, made by slow cooking meat along with the bone marrow.

INGREDIENTS :-	(Serves 6 to 8 persons)
MUTTON (MEAT)	— 1 - Kg (Big pcs.) + ½ Kg Nalli (Bones with marrow) or ½ Kg Chops or 6 - Paya
OR	
BEEF	— 1-Kg (Big pcs.)+1-Kg Nalli (Bones)
GHEE / OIL	— 250g / 1½ cups.
FLOUR (WHEAT/GRAM)	— 50 g / Roast lightly
ONIONS	— 1- medium size / finely chopped
GARLIC PASTE	— 25g / 4- tsp.
LUCKY NIHARI MIX	— 1- PACKET.

COOKING :-

- 1) In a large Pan, heat 1 cup / 175g ghee, add garlic paste, stir and add meat, bones, salt and Lucky Nihari Mix. Fry for a few minutes. Then add sufficient water (8 glasses approx.)
- 2) Cover & cook on very low heat until the meat is tender.
For Beef - 6 hrs. approx.
For Lamb/ Mutton - 4 hrs. approx.
- 3) Dissolve the flour in 2 cups of water and add this gradually to the gravy Stir well.
- 4) Cook on high heat for 10-15 minutes.
- 5) **Tempering** : Take a small pan and heat the remaining Ghee ½ cup / 75 g, add the onions & fry till golden brown. Pour this hot mixture into Nihari. Cover the lid & let it simmer on very low heat for 15 - 20 minutes.

NIHARI IS READY

Garnish with ginger juliennes, chopped coriander leaves, Green chillies and lime.

Serve hot with Tandoori Roti

Tips : - • Ask for shin part of the meat.

- Reduce the water quantity and time for cooking if using a pressure cooker.
- For best result cook Nihari on a coal fire.





Nizamuddin Urban Renewal Initiative

a People Public - Private Partnership



Sanjhi Art



Aari Embroidery



Environment Workshop



Dastangoi

DID YOU KNOW?

Nizamuddin urban renewal initiative a people public private partnership initiative is working tirelessly to generate integration between the community and the visitors.



A place full of life and death, this area is always bustling with the past and present. In a world where one fights for his religion, Nizamuddin Basti stands in complete peace and harmony. The Ganga - Yamuni Tehzeeb, meaning the merging of East and West, and pantheism are the essentials of being here.

One can find people of various religious backgrounds upon entering the *Phool Wali Gali*, where there exists a synthesis of religions. From Hindus to Muslims to Christians and members of other religions, this Basti is frequently visited as it provides a feeling of serenity, tranquility, and oneness.

The Nizamuddin Auliya Dargah is a place of worship and stands for togetherness. Everywhere you look, it's a fusion. A fusion of people. It has been used as a place of refuge during the Partition and it is the only place in Delhi where there has been no bloodshed or communal riots. It is safe to say that when one is troubled, be it in any form, peace shall be found here.

The tomb of Jahanara Begum, the daughter of the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan, lies beside an unknown person. This only shows that everyone is equal here, be it in life or death.

This is what Nizamuddin Auliya preached, that no matter which religion you belong to, you are always welcome as long as you have love or *ishq* in your heart for God.

This is the essence of Sufism.

This charming and mesmerizing place enchants the soul and truly brings to life the teachings of Sufism and the importance of having *mohabbat* in your life not only for God but for everyone else around you.

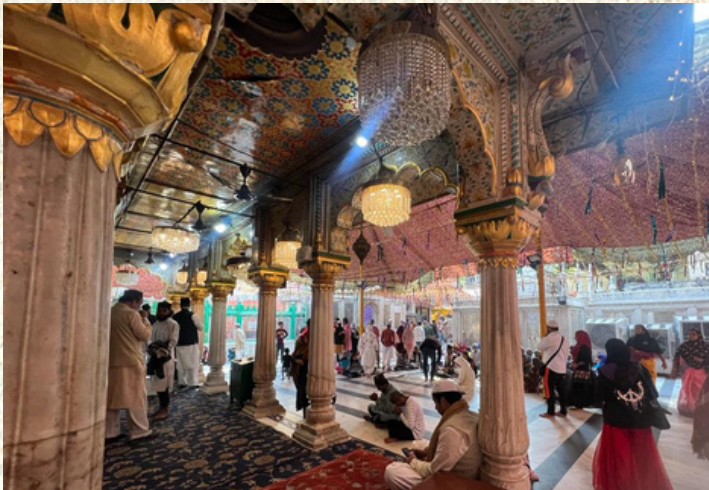
In addition, the relationship between the community and the Basti established a very strong base for the relevance of the teachings of Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya which still resonates in the hearts of the people of the basti and all visitors.



Shabd-Kosh

	Word	Meaning
1	Sufi	A group of religious-minded people who turned to asceticism and mysticism in order to reach God
2	Pir/Murshid/ shaikh	Name given to a Sufi Saint
3	Murid	Disciples of a Sufi Saint
4	Wali (plural Auliya)	'Friend of God'. A Sufi who claims proximity to Allah, acquiring His Grace (Barakat) to perform miracles (Karamat)
5	Dargah	The court of a Sufi saint where he used to meet his disciples
6	Ziyarat	The practice of pilgrimage (ziyarat) to tombs of Sufi saints is an occasion for seeking the Sufi's spiritual grace
7	Urs	Death of a Sufi Saint celebrating their union with God
8	Barakat	The Sufi's spiritual grace or blessing
9	Qawwali	A style of Islamic devotional music is now associated particularly with Sufis.
10	Qaul	The beginning and end of a Qawwali
11	Nabi	A name for Prophet Mohammad

Visit To Nizamuddin Basti





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